Export of Hardware Electronics

3070 . SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have explored the possibility on increasing exports of Hardware Electronics;

(b) if so, the efforts made in that regard; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have been exploring the possibility of increasing the export of hardware electronics from time to time. The efforts made in this regard include :—

—Simplification of export policies to encourage production for exports like extending the facility of import of capital goods under the EPCG Scheme on payment of 5% duty.

—Providing various facilities for export oriented units, which include duty free imports of capital goods, raw materials, components and other inputs, tax holidays against export and access to the domestic market. Such units can be set up under any of the schemes viz. Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP), Export Processing Zone (EPZ) and 100% Export Oriented Units (EOU). The EHTP scheme has been designed to meet the specific requirement of a globally-oriented electronics sector.

—Simplification of export related procedure/documentation like permitting of foreign investment upto 100% in units set up solely for exports on automatic route; Simplification of procedure for operating of units in the EHTP/EOU/EPZs schemes by permitting a number of operations on the basis of self certification, as per Chapter-IX of Handbook of Procedure (Volume-I), 1997—2002; Simplification of procedure of sub-contracting of production process in DTA for EHTP/EOU/EPZ units in terms of Deptt. of Revenue Notification No. 44/98-Customs dated 2-7-98; making eligible EHTP units and manufacturers-importers of electronic goods having investment of Rs. 3 crores and above for fast track clearance of goods imported by them vide Ministry of Finance (CBEC) Circular No. 56/98 dated 3-8-98.

—Encouraging promotional events like participation in international trade fairs, Market surveys and publicity campaigns.

—Exploring trade possibilities through bilateral discussion at Government level with other Countries during Joint Commission/Committee Meetings.

—Further, Government has also set up a Taskforce which has submitted its report on Electronics Hardware Manufacturing.

Quality of Export Items

3071 . SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are getting any feedback regarding quality of our export items, especially traditional items;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to ensure high quality of our export items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Government formally receives a feedback regarding quality of exports only in the event of a quality complaint. The Regional Sub-committee on Quality Complaints (RSCQC) set up at the regional offices of the DGFT receives and investigates all quality complaints received from foreign buyers. Appendix 50 of Handbook (Vol. 1) provides the guidelines for dealing with the quality complaints.

(c) The Government extends support and assistance to Trade and Industry to attain internationally accepted standards of quality for their products and also to promote the concept of Total Quality management. A separate chapter on Brand Promotion and Quality has been included in the EXIM Policy.

Tobacco Crop Holiday

3072 . SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Tobacco Board to declare tobacco crop holiday in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh this year;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has requested not to declare one year crop holiday in Karnataka; and